



## **The World Banana Forum (WBF)**

*Working together for sustainable banana production and trade*

### **Tenth Meeting of the WBF Steering Committee (SC)**

*Attended by the SC members and the Working Group (WG) coordinators 12 - 13*

**November 2015**

Mexico Room, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

### **FINAL REPORT**

**Thursday, 12 November 2015**

#### **1. Opening speeches by Mr. Boubaker Ben Belhassen, Director of the FAO Trade and Markets Division and by the WBF Secretariat**

Mr. Ben Belhassen welcomed the participants and thanked them for their attendance. In his speech he highlighted the recently approved Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how the World Banana Forum could play a role in contributing towards achieving these goals.

Mr. Pascal Liu welcomed the participants and introduced the interns who had recently joined the WBF Secretariat, Ms. Camille Crampé and Ms. Jessie Rivera-Fagan. Mr. Liu also mentioned the progress of the WBF regarding SDG, presented the objectives and expected outputs of the meeting, and invited participants to share their suggestions.

**Morning session (chaired by Ms. Katie Knaggs)**

#### **2. Summary of WBF activities in 2015**

Mr. Victor Prada presented the work of the Secretariat as supporter and facilitator of the SC, the Working Groups (WG) and the Executive Board (EB), as well as the Action Plan for the SC and WG. He presented the activities of the Secretariat to promote the WBF and increase the number of its participants, including fundraising activities. The complete document is available in the FTP folder of documents, code WBF-SC10-2015-04e.

#### **3. Distribution of Value in the Banana Supply Chain**

Mr. Alistair Smith summarized the activities completed in WG02, highlighting the work on living wages as a priority issue and current case studies. Ms. Nadia Scialabba gave a presentation on the Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems (SAFA) Guidelines, which led to a discussion on their current and potential use. The work completed by Fairtrade in Colombia to calculate social and environmental externalities was also mentioned by Mr. Ricardo Guimaraes. As a result, further assessment will be required to create a methodology in calculating the cost of production, including an inventory with all relevant social and environmental data. There was also a discussion on the mechanisms to increase the returns to producers and workers. Mr. Wilbert Flinterman presented Fairtrade International's work on living wages as member of the Global Living Wages Coalition.

#### **Decisions:**

- Find support to co-coordinate WG02, preferably from a company representative.
- Support WG02 members on their endeavour to create a methodology to calculate sustainable costs of production.
- Support WG02 members to explore methodologies to monetize externalities related to costs of production.
- Hold a face to face WG02 meeting in the first quarter of 2016.



**Follow up:**

2	Distribution of Value in the Banana Supply Chain (WG02)	Deadline	Leader	Supported by
2.1	<b>Sustainable Costs of Production</b>			
2.1.1	Conduct further assessment to create a methodology to calculate the cost of production including an inventory of relevant social and environmental data in the Colombian context.	<b><u>28/02/16</u></b>	VP	AS, JP
2.1.2	Share SAFA materials, including the methodology on climate change, with WG02 coordinators. Explore the possibility of collaboration with FAO on these tools.	<b><u>28/02/16</u></b>	VP	RG, JP, AS, CD
2.1.3	Look into the collaboration on data sharing with Fairtrade on monetizing externalities.	<b><u>31/03/16</u></b>	VP	RG, AS
2.1.4	Follow up with CIRAD on CoP studies.	<b><u>15/02/16</u></b>	VP	AS, CD
2.2	<b>Living wages</b>			
2.2.1	Explore the potential to conduct another study on wage ladders by CIMS.	<b><u>28/02/16</u></b>	AS	VP
2.2.2	Analyse a potential cooperation on living wages with GIZ and follow up with current webinars in the subject matter.	<b><u>31/01/16</u></b>	VP	AS
2.2.3	Analyse a potential cooperation on living wages with the ISEAL Coalition.	<b><u>28/02/16</u></b>	VP	AS
2.2.4	Follow up with the Ecuadorian government in their current work on living wages.	<b><u>31/01/16</u></b>	AS	VP
2.2.5	Draft a clarification paper on living wages to be shared with the SC members proposing options for a possible collaboration with the Global Living Wage Coalition.	<b><u>28/02/16</u></b>	VP	WF, AS, Ergon

#### 4. Sustainable Production Systems and Environmental Impact

Mr. Iain Farquhar gave an overview of the activities carried out during the last period, including mechanisms to promote environmental and social initiatives, the portal on best practices for sustainable production, the Carbon and Water Footprint project, the TR4 Task Force and the Red Rust Thrips. The first presentation by Mr. Joseph Lüneburg-Wolthaus from REWE highlighted the Banana Cent campaign and the importance of such initiative to create value. Ms. Farrah Adam gave an update to participants about the Virtual Library project with the remote participation of Ms. Inge Van den Bergh, highlighting the instruction received from the FAO Legal and Communications Units to include the articles on best environmental and social practices in the WBF website. A presentation was given on the project's achievements, budget, activities, articles drafted and new contributors to the portal. Ms. Adam and Mr. Luud Clercx also gave an update on the Carbon and Water Footprint project, explaining the evolution into a more multidimensional project. Mr. Clercx also gave a brief update on the Task Force on TR4, stressing the need for collective and articulated action, and the Red Rust Thrips.

**Decisions:**

- Revise WG01's work plan on pesticide reduction to have more technical expertise from independent experts and the industry on pesticide management, and continue working on alternatives to Chlorpyrifos.
- Increase the number of non-European WG01 coordinators.
- The WBF website will include the articles on best environmental and social practices following FAO Legal and Communication Unit's advice, and link them to the Promusa website.



**Follow up:**

1	Sustainable Production Systems and Environmental Impact (WG01)	Deadline	Leader	Supported by
1.0	Include COLSIBA's new participant in WG01 discussions.	<u>04/12/15</u>	CC	IM
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Carbon and Water Footprint</b>			
1.1.1	Assess the available tools on climate change such as Sharp tool and Cool Farm, and explore the collaboration with Fairtrade International's carbon initiative.	<u>31/12/15</u>	FA	LC
1.1.2	Draft the Carbon and Water footprint proposal for donor IDH.	<u>26/02/16</u>	LC	FA
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Virtual Library</b>			
1.3.1	Hire the services of a consultant to create a mobile version of the Musapedia portal and setup language features, within available budget.	<u>15/01/15</u>	FA	AV, IVB, CC
1.3.2	Hire the services of a company to design a digital strategy to increase the number of visitors on the website, within available budget.	<u>28/02/16</u>	FA	AV, IVB, CC
1.3.3	Discuss the opportunity of organizing a special WBF event during the Symposium on Agroecological approaches to promote innovative banana systems that Promusa and CIRAD will hold in Montpellier in October 2016.	<u>13/05/16</u>	IVB	FA
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Pesticide-reducing practices</b>			
1.4.1	Assess different options for establishing an advisory crop protection committee for the WG01.	<u>26/02/16</u>	FA	CC

**Afternoon session (chaired by Ms. Annelot Van Leeuwen)**

**5. Labour Rights, Gender and Occupational Health and Safety**

Mr. Prada provided a presentation with an update on the Banana Occupational Health and Safety Initiative (BOHESI) in Ecuador and Cameroon, the latest agreements being prepared with the Ecuadorian government and current cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO). Its main pillars include the development of the Ecuadorian National Manual on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and subsequent dissemination with the Ministry of Agriculture's extensionists. Ms van Leeuwen and Mr Smith provided an update on their respective activities in the context of the project. Mr. Kude highlighted the usefulness of the BOHESI program to build a safety policy in Cameroon and expressed interest in extending these practices to the whole agricultural sector. Mr. Smith stressed that the manual would include practical sheets for workers on key risks in banana production activities. Ms. Longley and Ms. Munguia presented the current work of the WBF Women's Group and stressed the importance of looking at labour rights and relations from a gender perspective and the need to involve governments in the process, including gender aspects in the OHS manual as a cross-cutting topic.

**Decisions:**

- Identify new coordinators for the WG.
- Gender-proof the BOHESI draft manual on Health and Safety, using ILO's expertise as much as possible for the manual review.
- Explore whether a MoU can be developed between FAO and the Ecuadorian Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Labour for the implementation of the BOHESI project, exploring the potential involvement of the ILO in this work.



- Organize an International Meeting of Women working in the Banana Industry back to back with the WBF Conference in 2016.

**Follow up:**

3	Labour Rights, Gender and Occupational Health and Safety (WG03)	Deadline	Leader	Supported by
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Coordination of WGO3</b>			
3.1.1	Organize a conference call with Christelle Lasmé and Anna Cooper to enquire about their availability to coordinate WG03.	<u>15/02/16</u>	IM	VP, CL, AC
3.1.2	Organize a conference call with George Jaksch to explore Chiquita's participation in supporting WG03 activities after Ms Sandoval's departure.	<u>15/02/16</u>	SL	GJ, AC, VP
<b>3.2</b>	<b>BOHESI</b>			
3.2.1	Study the feasibility to develop an MoU between FAO-WBF and Ecuadorian Gov.	<u>31/01/16</u>	VP	
3.2.2	Provide guidance to finalize the 1 <sup>st</sup> draft of the Manual on OHS.	<u>31/01/16</u>	AS	AL, VP
3.2.3	Share the draft Manual on OHS with project partners.	<u>15/02/16</u>	BOHESI	
3.2.4	Share the draft Manual on OHS with the ILO to request feedback on gender and OHS aspects.	<u>31/01/16</u>	VP	
3.2.5	Develop a strategy to train trainers among BOHESI partners and ministry representatives.	<u>28/02/16</u>	VP	AL, AS
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Gender</b>			
3.3.1	Finalize the gender reports for further dissemination after the Secretariat's revision.	<u>30/01/16</u>	AS	Blink staff
3.3.2	Ensure that gender aspects are included in the BOHESI draft manual on OHS.	<u>15/01/16</u>	IM	AS, AC, AL, VP
3.3.3	Explore a work plan within the WBF women group to be presented in the WBF Global Conference.	<u>15/03/16</u>	AC	WG
3.3.4	Circulate the draft agenda of the Women's Conference to the SC for their review.	<u>15/02/16</u>	VP	
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Labour rights</b>			
3.4.1	Share the final version of the labour rights publication.	<u>30/01/16</u>	AS	VP
3.4.2	Share the labour rights publication with the ILO for its review.	<u>31/01/16</u>	PL	

## 6. Funding of the WBF

Mr. Prada gave an update on the status of fee collection and on possible fundraising ideas, including the banana flour project, for which the SC requested to develop a more detailed proposal. The Financial report for 2015 and the forecast for 2016 were presented, showing a good financial situation to start 2016 and contribute to the funding of the WBF Conference. Mr. Smith requested to integrate interpretation and translation costs into the WBF budget. Ms. Adam also presented the opportunity of collaboration with the



University of Exeter which requested the support of WBF in the framework of a funding call on global food security and sustainable food supply launched by the UK Government.

**Decisions:**

- The financial report for 2015 and the forecast for 2016 are adopted.
- The extension of the multi-donor trust funds in two phases up to December 2017 is approved.
- Provide more information to the EB on Asprocan’s activities in order to decide on its fee.
- Approach GIZ and IDH again to explore funding opportunities with a hands-on appraisal.

**Follow up:**

4.3	Funding of the WBF	Deadline	Leader	Supported by
4.3.1	Collect SC members’ written comments and nutrition experts advice on the banana flour project and prepare a more detailed proposal for the SC.	<u>15/03/16</u>	VP	JF
4.3.2	Contact GIZ to involve them in potential projects, and eventually for fundraising.	<u>01/03/16</u>	VP	
4.3.3	Prepare a budget estimate for interpretation and translation to be discussed during the next EB call and included into the WBF budget.	<u>15/02/16</u>	AS	
4.3.4	Once its membership fee is agreed by the EB, confirm with Asprocan its fee in joining the WBF.	<u>28/02/16</u>	VP	
4.3.5	Revise the fee table and identify categories missing in order to be discussed with the EB.	<u>15/02/16</u>	VP	EB

**7. Memberships and Partnerships**

The Steering Committee discussed the request of membership of Syngenta. Mr. Harry Vander Wulp, from the Secretariat of FAO’s Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, presented the FAO Code of Conduct on Pesticides and provided information and alternatives to facilitate decision-making processes, including the participation of agricultural input supplying companies through associations or as observers. He highlighted current issues being raised to the Panel by the ECCHR regarding Bayer and Syngenta’s involvement in the sale of highly hazardous pesticides, having the latter requested to join the WBF in August 2014. The SC stressed the need for the WBF to clearly define its identity and principles, and possibly to review the Charter in order to avoid controversies on membership applications. A majority of members expressed preference for inviting industry bodies rather than individual agrochemical companies. The SC discussed the status of the German Banana Forum (GBF) initiative and its possible relationship with the WBF, stressing the importance to clarify that the GBF is not a branch of the WBF and possible name misleading, and that the initiative is still in its early stages with limited support from private sector members. The participants evoked the idea of integrating the NGO CSCP (co-founder of the GBF with Fairtrade Germany) as a member. Mr. Liu also highlighted the need to revise the WBF Charter following discussions on rules for decision making with the Legal Unit.

**Decisions:**

- Amend the Charter including clear criteria for the possible representation of input supplying companies in the WBF.
- The reply to Syngenta will be discussed after the above criteria have been adopted and the FAO Panel of Experts has given its final conclusions on the case.
- Consider the German Banana Forum as the NGO CSCP and invite them to join the WBF to align further activities once they clarify their mandate and name to avoid duplication of efforts and misleading information for project partners respectively.



- Increase the membership of the WBF by reaching out to main banana producing and exporting countries (Philippines), big producers and traders (Del Monte, Bonita) and new members, following-up on the decisions taken during SC08.
- Hold the next SC meetings in mid-week avoiding Fridays.
- Explore alternatives to Adobe Connect for WBF conference calls and webinars.
- BAMA is accepted as an SC member.

**Follow up:**

4.3	Memberships and Partnerships	Deadline	Leader	Supported by
4.3.1	Follow-up on the contacts provided by SC members and increase the participation of governments.	<u>28/02/16</u>	Secretariat	SC
4.3.2	Prepare draft criteria for the admission of input supplying companies to be discussed by the EB and the SC with the support of FAO's Legal Unit.	<u>22/02/16</u>	FA	PL
4.3.3	Discuss with the Legal Unit the necessary amendment of the paragraph related to decision-making by the SC in the Charter to comply with FAO's rules and principles.	<u>22/02/16</u>	FA	PL
4.3.4	Prepare a brief report with some alternative options to Adobe Connect and share it with the EB and SC.	<u>15/02/16</u>	VP	JF
4.3.5	Contact the NGO CSCP (the German Banana Forum) to understand their objectives and the level and type of cooperation they can provide, invite them to join the WBF and suggest inviting the WBF to the German Banana Forum meetings.	<u>30/02/16</u>	VP	AS
4.3.6	Renew the SC and EB at the next WBF Conference.	<u>28/02/16</u>	PL	AS, KN

**Friday 13 November 2015**

**Morning session (chaired by Mr. Jon Tugwell)**

**Summary of Decisions from the SC meeting day 1**

Key decisions taken by the SC have been included in the corresponding sections of the Working Groups and according to the agenda's main topics in the previous pages of this report.

**8. Preventing and Combating Fusarium TR4**

The session began with Mr. Adolfo Martinez's remote presentation on the threat of Fusarium to the future of Cavendish banana and new varieties being developed by FHIA. Mr. Clercx highlighted the relevance of the task force on TR4 in this context, given that TR4 expansion has serious socio-economic consequences. He presented several ideas to raise awareness about TR4, including the development of a mobile app. He also evoked Agrofair's project of a levy on exported banana boxes to fund research on TR4. Mr. George Jaksch confirmed a potential interest of Chiquita in joining this initiative with other main banana producers as an industry-wide effort. Mr. Gert Kema also gave a presentation on ways of dissemination of the Panama disease, highlighting the rapid spread of the disease. He also invited SC members to consider the possibility of submitting a joint proposal for the EU-funded Horizon 2020 framework programme to develop integrated approaches to the management of relevant pests and diseases of perennial tropical and subtropical crops, including banana diseases such Fusarium Wilt, Bunchy Top Virus, Black Sigatoka and Scarring beetle.



**Decisions:**

- Communicate on WBF activities on preventing and combating TR4 during international events, focusing on Latin America.
- Conduct an assessment of the potential economic and social impact of TR4 in Latin American countries.

**Follow up:**

1.2	Preventing and Combating Fusarium TR4	Deadline	Leader	Supported by
1.2.1	Share FHIA's presentations with SC members.	<u>18/12/15</u>	CC	FA
1.2.2	Organize presentations on TR4 in international banana conferences (starting in Peru in November 2015).	<u>20/11/15</u>	LC	FA
1.2.3	Arrange a meeting with GRULAC to involve governments in the WBF raising the importance of the TR4 Task Force, and involve other actors in the LATAM region.	<u>28/02/16</u>	PL	FA
1.2.4	Contact AEBE, Agrocalidad, Dole, and invite them to collaborate on TR4 initiatives.	<u>15/12/15</u>	VP	LC
1.2.5	Follow-up on the Government of Ecuador's interest in funding the development of the app, exploring the possibility of including it as part of a bilateral R&D program on coffee, banana, cacao that will become a PPP with Dutch and Ecuadorian companies.	<u>15/12/15</u>	LC	GK
1.2.6	Write a brief concept note to clarify the per-box levy proposal (level of levy, structure of the foundation, process of allocation of funds to R&D and the WBF) and send it to the EB and the SC for comments.	<u>30/01/16</u>	LC	GJ
1.2.7	Conduct a study assessing the potential economic and social impact of TR4 in Latin American countries.	<u>01/05/16</u>	LC	
1.2.8	Organize a side event on TR4 during the WBF Global Conference.	<u>15/03/16</u>	LC	FD, OC

**9. Preparation of the WBF Global Conference**

Ms. Adam and Mr. Smith gave an overview of the background of the Global Conference, highlighting the challenges, potential venues, budget and expert advice, explaining field visits are yet to be confirmed depending on the biosecurity protocols of the host country. She also confirmed the submission of the invitation letter from FAO's Director-General to the Ministry of Agriculture in Colombia. Mr. Renwick Rose explained the draft program, topics suggested in the agenda, duration of the sessions and logistical matters. The Permanent Representation of Costa Rica offered to explore the possibility of hosting the Conference in the country if currently-considered options failed.

**Decisions:**

- Hold the Global Conference in 2016, preferably in a banana producing country.
- Allow more space for discussion and reduce the duration of presentations in the panel sessions.
- Include the WBF Women Group meeting's outputs in the Global Conference.
- Set a special travel fund for participants who come from far away and have few means.



**Follow up:**

<b>4.4</b>	<b>Preparation of the WBF Global Conference</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Supported by</b>
4.4.1	Propose title ideas according to the general theme of the Conference: collaboration.	<u>15/02/15</u>	GJ	AS, RR
4.4.2	Adjust the draft program not affecting the women's Conference after the field trips. Organize parallel sessions for debate only; move the session on TR4 earlier in the agenda; and set a session for discussing the future and goals of the WBF with participants.	<u>15/02/15</u>	RR	AS, GJ
4.4.3	Incorporate the outputs of the Women's conference and prepare a summary of the progress made to be presented at the Global Conference.	<u>15/02/16</u>	SL	AT, IM
4.4.4	Ascertain with the Costa Rican government the possibility of hosting the third Global Conference if currently-considered options failed.	<u>29/01/16</u>	LFC	
4.4.5	Adjust and increase the draft travel budget.	<u>29/02/16</u>	FA	CC
4.4.6	Keep the gender balance in chairpersons, presenters, panelists, etc.	<u>01/03/16</u>	SL	AT, IM

**Afternoon session (chaired by Mr. Renwick Rose)**

**10. Activity Planning**

**Decisions:**

- Hold the next Steering Committee in Rome, in April or May 2016, preferably in the middle of the week.

**The priorities of the WBF are:**

- Finding adequate persons for coordinating the WGs (especially WG02 and WG03).
- Increasing the WBF membership.
- Producing materials informing on the WG's activities and disseminating them to all WBF participants (400+).
- Advancing the organization of the WBF Global Conference (including finding title, host country, dates and revising the program).